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December 3, 2012

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H. *J. Fielding*
Director and Health Officer

SUBJECT: **REPORT ON THE FEASIBILITY OF MOVING THE TOXICOLOGY LAB
FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/
WEIGHTS AND MEASURES TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

This is to provide an update on the actions taken to respond to the December 6, 2011 Board motion instructing the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to report back on the feasibility of moving the Environmental Toxicology Lab (ETL) from the Department of Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures (ACWM) to the Department of Public Health (DPH).

In an April 17, 2012 memo to your Board, DPH, ACWM, and CEO recommended contracting with an independent third party County-approved consulting firm with experience in public management and/or health services to: review the issue; examine the workload, budget, and space needs of the ETL; and provide recommendations.

Since the last update to your Board on October 5, 2012, the consultant project has begun, and DPH and ACWM have met with the selected vendor on multiple occasions. To date, the consultant has completed the following: conducted numerous interviews with key individuals, including ETL and Public Health Laboratory (PHL) staff, the CEO, and the former ETL Deputy Director; collected data related to operations, staffing, certification requirements, budget, workload, and client base; assessed space needs; and developed a questionnaire to evaluate how ETL testing services are provided in other counties.

The vendor is continuing to gather and analyze information that is needed to complete their evaluation and provide recommendations. The consultant's final report will be provided in mid-January 2013 which will then be reviewed and discussed by a workgroup comprised of staff from ACWM, DPH, and the CEO. A final report is anticipated to your Board by February 15, 2013.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or would like additional information, please let me know.

JEF:mq
PH:1112:007

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures